

**LIFE TOGETHER | “Learning Christ Together”**

**Ephesians 4:17–5:2**

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**> We have been adopted into the family of God.**

**Ephesians 1:5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

**Ephesians 2:18–19**

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

**I. Separated from Christ (4:17-19)**

**Ephesians 2:12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**Romans 1:21–22** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

<b>Unbeliever</b>	<b>Believer</b>
–Futility of their minds (v. 17)	–Renewed in the spirit of your minds (v. 23)
–Darkened in their understanding (v. 18)	–Eyes of our hearts enlightened to know hope (1:18)
–Alienated from the life of God because of ignorance that is in them, due to hardness of heart (v. 18)	–Reconciled to God through the blood of Christ (2:13-17)
	–Members of the household of God (2:19)
	–Boldness and access with confidence through faith (3:12)

**Ephesians 2:4–5** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

**II. Learned Christ (4:20-21) (Acts 18:24-19:20)**

**Ephesians 1:13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

**> What is a disciple?** One who is being transformed by the gospel and living daily on mission.

- **It’s not an academic learning but learning a person.**  
The goal was for them not only to know what their teacher knew, but also to be like their teacher, to walk in his ways. They weren’t learning a subject; they were

learning a person, if we can put it like that—his knowledge, his wisdom, his whole way of life. **Colin Marshall & Tony Payne – *The Vine Project*, p.65**

- **It is to be yoked to Jesus Christ.**

**Matthew 11:28–30** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- **It is transformative learning of Christ.**

The gospel teaches us that discipleship requires the renunciation of sin and the cultivation of holiness. To become a learner requires a renunciation—a radical unlearning—of our former rebellious way of life.

- **It is learning Christ together.**

### III. Learning to walk in newness of life together (4:22-5:2)

#### A. What is the truth in Jesus we are taught?

- (1) Put of your old self (v. 22)
- (2) Be renewed in your mind (v. 23)
- (3) Put on the new self (v. 24)

<b>Old Person (v. 22)</b>	<b>New Person (v. 24)</b>
- Corresponding to former life	- Corresponding to God
- Corrupted through desires	- Created in righteousness and holiness
- Based on deceit	- Based on truth

#### B. How do we put this into practice?

- (1) Renounce falsehood and cultivate speaking the truth (v. 25)
- (2) Renounce destructive anger and cultivate a righteous anger (vv. 26-27).
- (3) Renounce stealing and cultivate honest work so you can give (v. 28).
  - Three attitudes toward money and possession:
    - What’s yours is mine; I will take it.
    - What’s mine is mine; I will keep it.
    - What’s mine is God’s; I will share it.
- (4) Renounce destructive words and cultivate words that edify (vv. 29-30).
- (5) Renounce hateful attitudes and cultivate walking in love (vv. 31-5:2).

God’s love through Christ is demonstrated in two ways:

- > Forgiveness (4:32)
- > Sacrifice (5:1-2)

**1 John 3:16** By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers